

European Peer Learning Workshop Vienna

Date: 25th April 2018

The presentations can be downloaded from the project website:

<https://epatee.eu/events/2nd-european-peer-learning-workshop-evaluation-practices-energy-efficiency-policies>

The aim of EPATEE's European Peer-Learning Workshops is to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge and discuss existing practices of the evaluation of energy efficiency policies. The workshops serve at achieving one of EPATEE's main targets: to share experiences and to enable capacity building.

On 25th April 2018 the 2nd EU Peer-Learning Workshop was jointly organised with the European ODYSSEE-MURE project. Evaluation experts and evaluation users met in Vienna to learn about EPATEEs and ODYSSEE-MURE's current results and to discuss issues related to the evaluation of energy efficiency policies.

Results of EPATEE

The **knowledge base** which was discussed at the 1st Peer-Learning Workshop is available in a first version at <https://www.epatee-lib.eu>. Currently it includes 170 references that include evaluation reports, evaluation papers, evaluation guidelines, meta-evaluations and methodological papers on the topic of evaluation of energy efficiency policies. Users can browse through the knowledge base using search functions to find relevant references for concrete evaluation issues.

In addition, the number of **case studies** available at <https://epatee.eu/case-studies> is increasing. By the end of August 2018 around 30 case studies on concrete evaluations performed and the main insights and lessons learnt will be published. The aim of the case studies is to make information easily accessible and to provide information as transparent as possible. By using concrete examples, they show why evaluation is used and how it is performed. The main messages from the case studies are: "Evaluation is not a burden, but an opportunity" and "Good data is well-documented data".

Finally the EPATEE team has conducted a 2nd survey among key stakeholders in the field of evaluation, mainly to help identify issues that will feed into the development of the concrete EPATEE online tools aiming at guiding users to design their evaluations.

Experiences with evaluations

The **environmental fund state aid instrument in Austria** addresses investment projects on energy savings, renewable energies and other environmental purposes and can be granted to enterprises, municipalities and individuals. There are different types of evaluations conducted for this aid program. The continuous analysis is performed by internal analysts of the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and focuses on ecological, budgetary and economical effects. Additionally, an external evaluation is done every three years focusing on the same topics but also including organizational effects. For the external 3-years-analysis it is most important that evaluators know

and understand the scheme and the underlying reasons for certain design choices. This requires a significant preparation work by the policy officer to provide the evaluator with the relevant information about the scheme. Secondly the independency and objectivity of the evaluator is taken very seriously in order to get credible results out of the evaluation. The crucial points for a good evaluation include (1) a solid database, (2) an exact definition of the scope and purpose of the evaluation, (3) the qualification and independency of the evaluator, (4) an active steering group and (5) the willingness for development and adaption of the policy according to the evaluation's results. Evaluation results are discussed by the Parliament that can change the scheme (e.g. budget).

The **German National Climate Initiative (NCI)** complements policies and measures to reach national climate targets by combining measures on behavioural change and investment incentives by providing subsidy programs, showing best practice activities, providing broad and specific information programs and helping with the creation of energy and climate concepts. It supports climate action projects and programmes across Germany and addresses different target groups „consumers“, „business“, „local authorities“ and „educational institutions“. The evaluation of the NCI is an example of good practice in terms of evaluation planning (evaluation planned from the design stage of the policy). The focus is on greenhouse gas emission mitigation, economic impact, multiplication and continuity. As NCI includes a large portfolio of measures, major tasks were to define clear and relevant evaluation indicators, as well as impact/causal chains to analyse the impact of the different measures.

Multiple benefits of energy efficiency policies

Both EPATEE and ODYSSEE-MURE deal with multiple benefits of energy efficiency policies. EPATEE's research by now shows that the evaluation of multiple benefits is not common practice yet. Some impacts like GHG emissions or employment are more commonly evaluated than others like health impacts or water savings. However, the results from the stakeholder activities of EPATEE so far showed that adding the effects of multiple benefits to evaluation raised a lot of interest from the stakeholders. Experience of evaluation customers shows that it is easier to justify costs for certain schemes if there are other positive impacts on top of energy savings, so multiple benefits can be considered helpful and should be looked at. Thus for policy makers, **multiple benefits could act as an additional leverage factor** to state the importance of energy efficiency policies.

Ideally, the evaluation of multiple benefits should already be considered in the policy design phase. This ensures that the data needed for evaluation will be collected once the policy is implemented.

The level of **accuracy needed when assessing multiple benefits** was discussed. It was concluded that although a sound analysis needs to be done, the level of precision should be acceptable and qualitative arguments can also be used when a quantitative assessment is too difficult.

Generally the view was supported that including multiple benefits in the evaluation of energy efficiency policies is of value and helps to raise the status of these policies and to attract more funding.

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